

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 222710

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 7158 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 18 SEP
QUOTE:

S E C R E T GENEVA 7158

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY, SISCO, ATHERTON FROM SAUNDERS

EO: 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EG IS PFOR

SUBJ: GENEVA MILITARY WORKING GROUP -- SESSIONS 12-15

1. FOLLOWING DEEPENING FRUSTRATION AND SENSE OF DEADLOCK IN MIL-
ITARY WORKING GROUP TUESDAY NIGHT AND WEDNESDAY MORNING (SESSIONS
12-13), ATMOSPHERE
AND PROGRESS BEGAN TO IMPROVE WITH WEDNESDAY
EVENING SESSION (14). ALTHOUGH THERE ARE STILL SOME STUBBORN IS-
SUES TO BE WORKED OUT, IT APPEARS FOLLOWING THURSDAY MORNING SES-
SION (15) AS IF KEY ISSUE OF PHASING REDEPLOYMENT MAY BE NEAR RE-
SOLUTION AND SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS MADE ON OTHER OUTSTANDING ISSUES.

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2. KEZ BREAKTHROUGH, OF COURSE, IS ON PHASING OF REDEPLOYMENT.

ESSENCE IS THAT EGYPTIANS WEDNESDAY MORNING PUT FORWARD MODEST NEW PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD DIVIDE PRESENT BUFFER ZONE IN HALF IN TWO NORTHERN SECTORS WITH EGYPTIANS MOVING INTO THOSE HALVES INTO WHOLE SOUTHERN QUARTER OF PRESENT BUFFER, AND INTO NEW CONNECTION WITH SOUTHERN AREA IN MOVES ON DECEMBER 15, JANUARY 5, JANUARY 19, FEBRUARY 2, FEBRUARY 14. THIS WOULD FOLLOW TWO-STAGE TAKEOVER OF SOUTHERN AREA BY DECEMBER 1. THURSDAY MORNING SHAFIR REDUCED AREA FROM ONE-HALF TO ONE-THIRD OF BUFFER ZONE, CUT OUT JANUARY 5 MOVE, AND SAID HE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT JERUSALEM ACCEPT. EGYPTIANS SEEM INCLINED TO AGREE, ALTHOUGH THIS IS INDEED MODEST PLAN. IF JERUSALEM AGREES -- AS I ASSUME IT WILL FOLLOWING STRONG AND TIMELY WASHINGTON INTERVENTION WEDNESDAY AND SINCE ISRAEL IS NOT GIVING UP ANYTHING OF ITS OWN -- THEN, ACCORDING TO SIILASVUO, ISSUE SHOULD BE SETTLED. EGYPTIANS HAVE NO CAUSE FOR ELATION, BUT SINCE IT IS THEIR PROPOSAL, I ASSUME THEY WILL LET ISSUE DROP.

3. IMPORTANT BREAKTHROUGH HAS ALSO OCCURRED ON ISSUE OF CIVILIAN PRESENCE IN NORTHERN, COASTAL AREA OF BUFFER ZONE 1. ISRAELIS FINALLY SEEM TO HAVE PERCEIVED ALL BY THEMSELVES THAT MOVEMENT OF CIVILIANS BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THIS AREA, QANTARA, AL ARISH, EVEN GAZA IS WHAT THEY WERE PRESSING FOR IN MARCH. SINCE EGYPTIANS NOW RECOGNIZE THAT PEOPLE LIVING THERE -- BOTH SIDES SEEM TO AGREE NOW THERE ARE 3400 -- TODAY WORK IN AL ARISH OR RECEIVE SERVICES FROM THAT CITY, WHICH IS ALSO EGYPTIAN, THEY HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT FREE MOVEMENT ACROSS LINES E AND J IN AND OUT OF BUFFER SERVES EGYPTIAN INTERESTS. THEY HAVE PROPOSED CENSUS IN MARCH TO FREEZE POPULATION AS OF THEN, ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS, AND DEFINING AREA OF THEIR ACTIVITY. THIS ISSUE WHICH SEEMED UNMANAGEABLE SEVERAL DAYS AGO NOW SEEMS ON ROAD TO RESOLUTION.

4. STALEMATE STILL EXISTS ON NUMBER OF POLICEMEN IN SOUTHERN AREA. ISRAELIS ARE UP TO ABOUT 700 THROUGH VARIOUS ACCOUNTING DEVICES -- ARMED, UNARMED ADMINISTRATIVE, ON ROTATION -- AND EGYPTIANS SEEM TO HAVE 100 UP THEIR SLEEVES TO PLAY NEXT. THIS IS ONE WE DO NOT WANT TO GET INTO.

5. JOINT COMMISSION STILL SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION, BUT THIS WILL
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RESOLVE ITSELF.

6. DISCUSSION OF EARLY WARNING SYSTEM PROCEEDING PRAGMATICALLY WITH EXCEPTION OF ONE EGYPTIAN SPANNER SUBJECT SEPTTEL.

7. PARTIES ARE DISCUSSING INITIALING RATHR THAN SIGNING MONDAY -- END OF 15 DAYS WITHIN WHICH GROUP MUST FINISH ITS WORK -- WITH SIGNATURE FOLLOWING FAVORABLE ACTION BY US CONGRESS. I HAVE NOW

BEEN ASKED (A) WHEN CONGRESSIONAL ACTION IS EXPECTED AND (B) WHETHER THIS PROCEDURE ACCEPTABLE TO US. ON FORMER, I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO GIVE SIILASVUO SOM JUDGMENT BECAUSE, IF THERE IS NO SIGNING MONDAY, DELEGATES WOULD LEAVE AND SOME WOULD COME BACK. ON LATTER, I THINK THIS IS BEST ANSWER.

8. UN HAS NOW RELUCTANTLY TAKEN BULL BY HORNS AND COMMITTED ITSELF TO PROVIDE FIRST DRAFT OF PROTOCOL AND CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH PARTIES. SOMEBODY HAD TO PUT PEN TO PAPER.

9. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO CAIRO AND TEL AVIV.DALE UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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